

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 21-90 are pending in the application, with 21, 35, 49, 63 and 77 being the independent claims. Claim 77 is sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 77-90 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner contends that “none of the elements of the claimed device [are] necessarily implemented in hardware.” Applicants respectfully disagree, and assert that the claimed “device” is a machine that is statutory under Section 101. However, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 77 to recite a “computer implemented device.” Such computer implemented device may, for example but without limitation, be implemented using a computer system as shown in FIG. 5.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 77-90 are statutory, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 21-90 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,721,910 to Unger *et al.* (hereafter “Unger”). Applicants respectfully disagree.

With regard to claim 21, Unger does not teach at least: “performing an additional iteration of the searching using the fourth group as input, to output a fifth group of documents.”

With regard to this element, the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action contends: “Unger teaches the step of using ‘patent numbers for this set of patents’ (i.e., ‘the fourth group’) as unique identifiers to search and display the full text and associated graphic images (i.e., ‘output a fifth group of document’.)” The Examiner refers to col. 6, lines 45-55 of Unger to support this contention.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of Unger. In contrast to claim 21, the cited excerpt of Unger (col. 6, lines 45-55) does not teach “***searching*** using the fourth group as input, to output a fifth group of documents”. Instead, Unger states that previously identified patent numbers can be used as identifiers to ***link*** to the text and images of those patents. “The patent numbers for this set of patents may then be used as unique identifiers to ***electronically link*** to full text sources of patents and display the full text and associated graphic images of the set of patents.” Col. 6, lines 48-51 of Unger (emphasis added). There is a fundamental and substantial difference between searching in a group of documents (as recited in claim 21), and linking to the text and images of documents in a group (as taught by Unger).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 21 and its dependent claims are patentable over Unger, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

The above argument also applies to independent claims 35, 49, 63 and 77. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 35, 49, 63 and 77 and their respective dependent claims are patentable over Unger, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

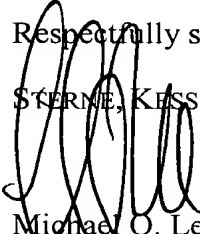
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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